

Command and Control Objective

Establish responsibility for overall command and control of state mobilization resources. All incidents for which state fire resources mobilization is requested and authorized must be managed and operated using the NIMS (National Incident Management System) Incident Command System.

Mobilization Incident Command

The State Fire Marshal shall assign a mobilization Incident Commander to each state mobilization incident. A state mobilization may be under the command of a:

- Washington State Type 2 Incident Management Team.
- National Type 1 Incident Management Team.
- Local Regional Type 3 Incident Management.
- Unified Command, local Incident Commander with a Type 1, 2, or 3 Incident Commander.

Until a Delegation of Authority is enacted, an incoming Incident Commander does not have the authority to assume command.

Delegation of Authority

A Delegation of Authority between the local jurisdiction(s) and the incoming Incident Management Team will be required.

The local jurisdiction is considered as the Agency Administrator, but does not have the legislative authority to spend state funds. This does not diminish the local jurisdictions' ability to set terms and conditions of an Incident Commander to protect life and property.

A Delegation of Authority is a written transfer of authority vesting the Incident Commander with the control and management of the incident in accordance with terms and conditions established by the delegating local jurisdiction and State Fire Marshal.

A Delegation of Authority defines the scope of authority granted to the Mobilization IC and the relationship with the local IC or local/region Incident Management Team and may specify a unified command.

By statutory provision:

Upon implementation of state fire mobilization, the host district resources shall become state fire mobilization resources consistent with the fire mobilization plan. **(RCW 43.43.961(4)).**

Section 10 Command and Control

2005 Mobilization Plan

The Mobilization IC will work in cooperation with the authorities of the local jurisdiction(s) to ensure that local policy, as established by the local agency administrator(s), and priorities for control are complied with insofar as possible. (For a model Delegation of Authority, **See Delegation of Authority Appendix D or Sample Delegation Form – Appendix M.**)

The Delegation of Authority, once signed, shall be faxed to the State EOC at (253) 512-7234.
Roles and Responsibilities of the Mobilization Incident Commander

The paramount responsibility of the Incident Commander is to ensure that state mobilization resources are matched to incident requirements (i.e., that state mobilization resources are deployed and utilized in keeping with their training, experience and abilities) under the direction of qualified command, thereby ensuring effective and safe operations.

The Incident Commander has the authority to assign, reassign, and demobilize resources in keeping with this mandate.

In support of these responsibilities, the MIC:

- Fills the Mobilization Overhead Team, as deemed necessary:
- Joins unified incident/area command as the Incident Commander for all state mobilization resources:
- May assume overall incident command responsibility and authority under a Delegation of Authority, in which event the Incident Commander:
 - Works in cooperation with the authorities of the local jurisdiction(s) to assure that local fire policy and priorities for control are complied with insofar as possible:
 - Establishes incident/area priorities and objectives:
 - Determines strategies:
- Provides coordination and communication between local jurisdiction(s), State Fire Marshal's Office and the incident:
- Ensure that state mobilization resources are matched to incident requirements:
- Orders, assigns, and demobilizes state mobilization resources as necessary to support incident objectives:
- Coordinates and supports the Area Command Authority if established:
- Collaborates with the Regional Coordinator on critical issues concerning fire resources:
- Interfaces with multi-agency command at the incident:
- Directs the Planning Section to provide the demobilization lists to the designated dispatch center prior to the Incident Management Team's departure from the incident:
- Provides input for the after-action report to the State Fire Marshal's Office;
- Ensures that the origin and cause of the fire is determined, and if found to be other than of natural cause, ensures that the cause of the fire is fully investigated by the jurisdiction having authority.

Area Command

When several incidents are on-going simultaneously, there may be a need for a mobilization Area Command. The State Fire Marshal as the statutory Resource Coordinator can establish a Mobilization Area Command to prioritize mobilized resources.

If a non-mobilization multi-agency Area Command is established, the State Fire Marshal's Office will continue to dispatch, track and reimburse mobilized resources for Mobilization events.

Training Assignments

In recognition of the requirement for training and the need to qualify additional personnel for future Incident Management Team assignments (as alternates, additions, or replacements), personnel may be mobilized by the State Fire Marshal's Office. Trainees will be assigned from an established list of qualified Washington Fire Service personnel.

Air Operations Procedures

Air operations (attack, observation, and support) at all state mobilization incidents shall conform to the rules and procedures for air operations as adopted by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Logistical Support

The Mobilization Incident Commander has the authority to procure the logistical support required to sustain the resources mobilized under state mobilization.

Contracts

For the efficient and expeditious acquisition of required resources of any kind, the Incident Commander or Finance Section Chief may authorize emergency contracts with vendors.

Other vendor contracts will need prior approval of the State Fire Marshal's Office. This process minimizes the potential for error or delay in obtaining critical resources or paying costs. This provision shall not be used to circumvent the prescribed usual resource acquisition process.

Ground Support Unit

A Ground Support Unit shall be established for the initial support of state mobilization resources.

Communications

Communication links are vital and must be ensured (**See Communications – Appendix L.**)

- The VHF radio spectrum will be primary on state fire mobilization incidents.
- All state mobilization resources must bring a programmable VHF radio or obtain one from the incident prior to deployment.
- All units of a strike team/task force and leader must have common communications other than REDNET (153.830 MHz) or OSCCR (156.135 MHz), unless otherwise specified in the Incident Communications Plan.

Code of Conduct

Resources mobilized to an incident shall promote and maintain a harmonious and productive work place environment. Core to the State Fire Marshal's values is the necessity that all employees deserve to be treated with the utmost respect and dignity. All resources shall strive to ensure that these basic ideals are promoted and maintained. Ultimately, this is the standard by which the State Fire Marshal will:

- Measure how employees interact with those they serve.
- Establish the expectation of how individuals will be treated and how individuals will treat others.

The State Fire Marshal will make available only those resources that align themselves with the following code of conduct.

The Code of Conduct entails the following qualities:

- Lead by example;
- Be proficient in your craft;
- Promote a positive environment;
- Deal with issues directly;
- Empower others to solve problems;
- Treat others as equals and with respect;
- Expect the best;
- Share your knowledge.

Sexual Harassment and Discrimination

All personnel participating in a mobilized incident will abide by all federal and state laws prohibiting any form of discrimination or harassment. All forms of discrimination and harassment under state and federal laws are prohibited. The policies and work rules of your home agency govern your conduct. The Incident Commander will ensure all incidents of discrimination or harassment reported by personnel at the incident are preliminarily investigated.

The decision whether to demobilize personnel involved in an investigation will reside with the Incident Commander in consultation with the State Fire Marshal's Office. The Incident Management Team is responsible for:

- Gathering initial statements, and;
- Contact information from witnesses, and;
- Notifying the employee's home agency of the complaint.

If the preliminary investigation reveals any potential violations of federal or state laws prohibiting discrimination or harassment, it is expected that a formal investigation will be done by the accused personnel's home agency according to the home agency rules and policies. The home agency will be responsible to investigate the incident, record the findings, and impose discipline if appropriate.

At the conclusion of the formal investigation, the home agency shall notify the State Fire Marshal's Office of the outcome. If the accused person is found to have engaged in misconduct as a result of the formal investigation, the home agency will also advise the status of the person's future participation in Mobilization.

If the home agency fails to notify the State Fire Marshal's office of the outcome of the formal investigation, the agency may not be called to participate in future State Mobilizations.

Agency Rules / Policies

Mobilized resources are required to follow their home agency's policies and work rules. Allegations of misconduct will be referred to the person's home agency. The home agency will be responsible for:

- Conducting an investigation into the allegation(s) to determine if there is a violation of home agency policy and/or procedure;
- Administering any corrective or disciplinary action for violation(s) of home agency policy and/or procedure;